

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 1-20 will be pending after entry of this paper, of which claims 1, 7, and 16 are in independent form. By this paper, claims 1-6 are amended. Claims 7-20 are added by the present paper. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

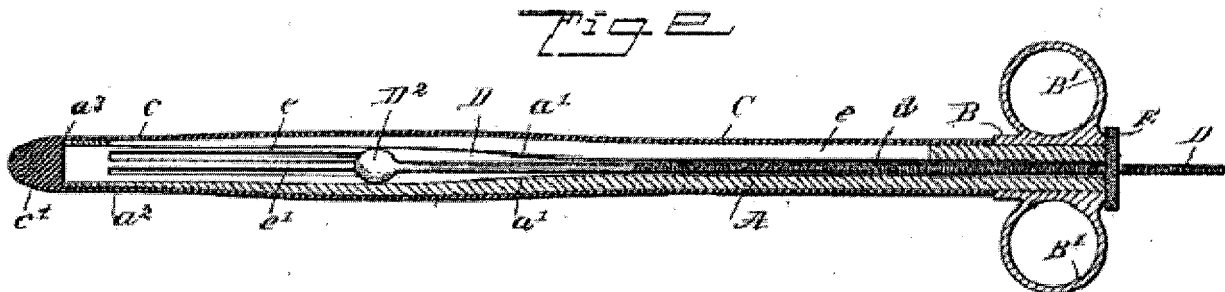
B. Claim Objections

The Final Office Action objected to claims 1-6 because of various informalities. By this paper, claims 1-6 have been amended per the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 1-6.

C. Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

The Final Office Action rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 702,789 to Gibson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to amended independent claim 1, Gibson does not disclose a tool for deploying an expandable structure into interior body regions having a "stylet being selectively insertable into and withdrawable from an interior of the expandable structure via the lumen without expanding the expandable structure." With reference to FIG. 2 reproduced from Gibson, the Final Office Action identified longitudinal slits e of tube A and rod D as corresponding to the claimed expandable structure and stylet, respectively.



In that regard, Gibson clearly discloses that upon removing rod D from tube A that the longitudinal slits e spring or bend outward. *See* Gibson, p.2 ll.60-70. Thus, Gibson does not anticipate a “stylet being selectively insertable into and withdrawable from the interior of the expandable structure via the lumen without expanding the expandable structure,” as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and pass claim 1 to allowance.

D. Dependent Claims

Claims 2-6 depend from and add additional features to independent claim 1. These claims are believed to be distinct from the art of record, for example for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

E. New Claims

New claims 7-20 have been added and recite a combination of features not disclosed by the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claims 7-20 are allowable over the cited reference.

F. Notice

Applicant directs Examiner to the claims, actions, responses and cited art in the following U.S. patents and applications:

1. 10/958,600, Publication No. 2005/0119662 A1
2. 11/978,802, Publication No. 2008/0065137 A1
3. 5,972,015
4. 6,623,505

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims currently pending in this application are in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 408-548-3929 to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the allowance of this application.

The Final Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art of which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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